

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Unknown)
)
Filing Date: Unknown)
)
Priority Date: 10 MAY 2000)
)
Applicant: JOHNSON, Mark Nicholas)
)
For: MECHANICAL JOINT)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director For Patents
Box: New Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the enclosed application entitled "Mechanical Joint" claiming priority to British Patent Application No. 0012653.2 filed May 25, 2000.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, add the Header "Cross-Reference to Related Application" with the attached new paragraph prior to the first paragraph; and add the Header "**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**" between lines 1 and 2; add the Header "**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**" between lines 25 and 26.

Page 5, add the Header "**DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**" between lines 14 and 15;

Page 6, add the Header "**DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**" before the 1st line.

Page 9, add the new paragraph after the last line per the attached clean version.

Attached are new paragraphs to be added to pages.

In the claims

Please amend claims as follows:

2. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said first member is provided with a series of apertures formed at spaced intervals and each of said apertures is provided for the formation of a mechanical joint in accordance with the invention.
3. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said second member lies in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the longitudinal axis of said first member.
4. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said first member is provided in an initial condition in an elongate form and the movement of said first and second edges of the opening of said aperture is about a pivotal axis located in said aperture or adjacent thereto so that said first member, when the joint is formed has relatively angled first and second portions at or adjacent to the formed joint.
5. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said aperture is formed so as to extend from one side of the member substantially across the majority

of the member to the opposite side leaving a band of material at the opposite side.

6. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein an insert is provided in said aperture and has upper and lower collars formations which protrude above or below the first member.

7. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein in one form said second member positioned in said aperture is a former and is subsequently moved out of said aperture and replaced by an insert which can be held in position.

8. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said second member is attached to an insert held within the opening.

9. (Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method including the following steps:

taking a first elongated member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member;

positioning a member or insert in the aperture; and

moving at least one portion of the member to move first and second edges of the opening towards one another to a degree which is sufficient to prevent the insert or member from passing through the opening.

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10. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said first and second edges are respectively moved so as to substantially close the opening and hence retain said member or insert in position in said aperture.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein the opening is completely closed by the provision of a closing member.

12. (Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method including the following steps:

taking a first elongate member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member;

positioning a former in the aperture; and

moving at least one portion of the member to at least partially close the opening to an extent which is sufficient to prevent the former from passing through the opening.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said former is removed by sliding the same out of said aperture and replaced by an insert or second member which is positioned to engage in the opening and so engage a second member with said first member directly or via the insert.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said former is an insert which is retained in position and to which said second member is connected.

REMARKS

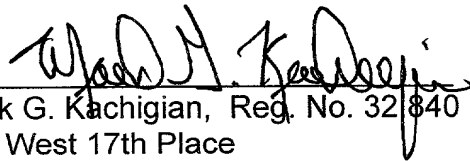
Attached are the marked up versions of the claims and new paragraphs as required in Section 1.121(4) (ii).

The application should now be in condition for examination, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated: 24 May 2001

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Clean Version of Claims:

2. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said first member is provided with a series of apertures formed at spaced intervals and each of said apertures is provided for the formation of a mechanical joint in accordance with the invention.

3. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said second member lies in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the longitudinal axis of [the] said first member.

4. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said first member is provided in an initial condition in an elongate form and the movement of [the] said first and second edges of the opening of [the] said aperture is about a pivotal axis located in [the] said aperture or adjacent thereto so that [the] said first member, when the joint is formed has relatively angled first and second portions at or adjacent to the formed joint.

5. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said aperture is formed so as to extend from one side of the member substantially across the majority of the member to the opposite side leaving a band of material at the opposite side.

6. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein an insert is provided in [the] said aperture and has upper and [or] lower collar formations which protrude above or below the first member.

7. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein in one form [the] said second member positioned in [the] said aperture is a former and is subsequently moved out of [the] said aperture and replaced by an insert which can be held in position.

8. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said second member is attached to an insert held within the opening.

9. (Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method [comprising] including the following steps: taking a first elongated member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member[,]; positioning a member or insert in the aperture; and [then] moving at least one portion of the member to move first and second edges of the opening towards one another to a degree which is sufficient to prevent the insert or member from passing through the opening.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 [characterised in that the] wherein said first and second edges are respectively moved so as to substantially close the opening and hence retain the said member or insert in position in [the] said aperture.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 [characterised in that] wherein the opening is completely closed by the provision of a closing member [and/or weld material].

12. (Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method [comprising] including the following steps: taking a first elongate member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member[,]; positioning a former in the aperture; and moving at least one portion of the member to at least partially close the opening to an extent which is sufficient to prevent the former from passing through the opening.

13. (Amended) A [,] method according to claim 12 [characterised in that the] wherein said former is removed by sliding the same out of [the] said aperture and replaced by an insert or second member which is positioned to engage in the opening and so engage a second member with [the] said first member directly or via the insert.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 [characterised in that the] wherein said former is an insert which is retained in position and to which [the] said second member is connected.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 [characterised in that the] wherein said former is part of [the] said second member trapped in position to form the mechanical joint.

16. (Amended) An item formed from at least a first and second member, said item comprising: being formed by engaging the second member with the first member via a mechanical joint and [characterised in that] wherein said mechanical joint is formed with the first member including an opening defined therein for the reception of the second member or means to which the second member can be attached, said edges defining

the opening moved to trap the means or second member in the opening and thereby form the item of furniture.

17. (Amended) An item according to claim 16 [characterised in that] wherein the item is formed from a series of selectively engaged members, at least one of said engagements made via a mechanical joint as herein described.

18. (New) A method according to claim 9 wherein the opening is completely closed by the provision of weld material.

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New Header and paragraph to be inserted on Page 1, after title.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No. 0012653.2 filed
May 25, 2000.

New paragraph Header to be inserted into Page 1, between lines 1 and 2:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

New paragraph Header to be inserted into Page 1, between lines 25 and 26:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

0012653.2

New header paragraph to be inserted into Page 5 between lines 14 and 15:

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

New header paragraph to be inserted into Page 6 before the first line:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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New paragraph to be inserted into Page 9 after the last line:

While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.

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